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Identical letters dated 5 January 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to my previous identical letters of 2 January 2018 (S/2018/6), and on instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that, on Wednesday, 3 January 2018 at 1010 hours, a military air transport aircraft of the United Arab Emirates (serial No. DHC-6) coming from United Arab Emirates airspace and heading towards Bahrain violated the airspace of Qatar. It flew over the exclusive economic zone of Qatar without prior authorization from the competent Qatari authorities (a map of the aircraft's flight path is attached). A Qatari fighter jet was immediately dispatched on to conduct a patrol. The aircraft of the United Arab Emirates flew between air corridors UL-768 and UM-600 before landing in Bahrain at 1127 hours.

This is not the first such deplorable incident: the United Arab Emirates have persistently violated the sovereignty of Qatar, posing a threat to the integrity of its borders and territory. Such actions show that the authorities of the United Arab Emirates are intent on violating international law, conventions and norms. This incident is in line with the ongoing, irresponsible acts of provocation being committed unilaterally by the United Arab Emirates against Qatar. In addition to being a threat to regional stability and security, those acts are also a direct violation of the principles of respecting State sovereignty and maintaining international security and peace that are set out in the Charter of the United Nations.

While the Government of Qatar is keen to maintain good relations with neighbouring States, it strongly condemns and rejects any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Should such a violation recur, Qatar, in order to preserve its legitimate sovereign right, will take every measure required to defend its borders, airspace and national security, in accordance with international laws and norms.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Permanent Representative

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